

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, and 20 have been rejected.

Claims 9-11 have been allowed.

Claims 4-8, 15-19, and 21-23 have been objected to.

Claims 2-5, 7, 13-16, 18, 19, and 21-23 have been amended as shown above.

Claims 1, 12, and 20 have been cancelled.

Claims 2-11, 13-19, and 21-23 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 2-11, 13-19, and 21-23 are respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 9-11 are allowable. These claims have not been amended and therefore remain in condition for allowance.

The Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4-8, 15-19, and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended Claims 2-5, 7, 13-16, 18, 19, and 21-23. The Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 21, and 22 are allowable. The Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 21, and 22 (and their dependent claims).

II. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that all claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

SUMMARY

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@davismunck.com*.

The Applicant has included the appropriate fee to cover the cost of this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: _____

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